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PROGRAM News 7

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SUBJECT CIA Recruiting

RENEE POUSSAINT: There's a certain company in Washington that's looking for local recruits. It's the Company, also known as the Central Intelligence Agency.

But News 7's Carlos Ramirez says, despite high unemployment, some people still refuse to spy.

[Clip of CIA commercial].

MAN: To you we say these are times to put your training and ability to work where it really counts, at the CIA.

[End of clip].

CARLOS RAMIREZ: That's part of a commercial running on two Washington area radio stations this week. The Agency is looking for new recruits. But if what we found downtown is any sample, the Agency may have problems.

MAN: The CIA? No. I wouldn't even consider it.

RAMIREZ: Why not?

MAN: Things they've done in the past.

SECOND MAN: I don't think I'd be interested in working for the CIA.

RAMIREZ: But according to the Agency's Deputy Director for Personnel and Recruitment, recently they've been swamped, 2,000 applicants a week, 1,000 resumes.

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Can you tell me how large the Agency is? How many...

DEP. DIR. FOR PERSONNEL & RECRUITMENT WILSON: I'm sorry. I can't answer that question.

RAMIREZ: Can you tell me how many people you're hoping to hire?

WILSON: I'm sorry. I can't answer that question.

RAMIREZ: Well, there are some things you can't discuss. You know, top secret and all stuff. But Wilson did say there are openings in 104 different positions ranging from economic researchers and electronic technicians, to agents, you know, spies.

WILSON: I would rather not use the word spy. But, in effect, it is an individual who is trained to go abroad in various foreign countries and to collect human intelligence...

RAMIREZ: Wilson says the Agency has suffered no RIFs recently, and these attempts to bolster the staff were aimed at broadening intelligence world-wide. Starting salaries range from ten to twenty-five thousand dollars, depending upon the job and the experience.

And so, if you're interested in joining the CIA, the number to call is [beep]. Oh, that's right. They asked us not to give out the number, for security reasons. You're asked to write.

Carlos Ramirez, News 7.

DAVID SCHOUMACHER: We'll keep their secret. You can't write 7 -- you can't call Paul Berry, you can't call the CIA.